

**From:** (BEGIN!)  
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Dear Friends:

I congratulate the promoters of an appropriate FRAMEWORK for the study of history in our California schools that fairly includes Latinos/Mexican American/Chicanos/Hispanics. It is SO a PART of our roots and history, and there is no escape if we are to honor where we as north americans in California have come from.

I was born in Taos, N Mexico, but grew up in Los Angeles since I was four, and maintain a BLOG about the Priest of Taos (Padre A.J. Martinez: 1793-1867). There is a long-time kinship and historical connection between NM and CA, and I refer the interested reader to my essay on the topic:  
<<http://www.thetaosconnection.com/abiqui/new-mexico-california-connection/>>

My dad moved from Taos to L.A. to work for Lockheed Aircraft in 1943. This was already part of a long tradition of people form NM to come to CA.

Among some of the historical figures--not necessarily mentioned in the essay-- are the following:

- Capitan José Romero, author of *Romero Expeditions* (1826) who explored the Palm Springs area for the Republic of Mexico that had relatively recently become independent from the Kindgom of Spain. Captain Romero was born in San Francisco, but his family roots were in NM.
- Julian Chavez of Abiquiú came as a young man to L.A. (c. 1830), and by 1840s was in charge of "department of water" and Vice Mayor for the city of L.A. He is mostly remembered for his Elysian Park home in "Chavez Ravine" of DODGER FAME.
- Santiago Martínez, one of the earliest NMexicans who SETTLED in southern California near Agua Mansa--Colton area along a Santa Ana River tributary near today's intersection of 215 and 10 Freeways.
- Lorenzo Trujillo of Abiquiú was a trekker and guide who led several expeditions from Taos through Abiquiu NM to L.A.--including the caravans of 1840 and 1841 that brought the following persosns involved in various occupations: businessmen/fur trappers/mountain men/liquor dealers/land speculators/political exiles.
- John Rowland (Rowland Heights) and William Workman were partners in Taos, and worked as partners in southern California. Rowland was married to Encarnacion Martinez of Taos--likely a relative of Padre Martinez, and she had LAND DEALINGS in the Colton area (Agua Mansa). Rowland and Workman came in a caravan to CA led by Lorenzo Trujillo.
- Benjamin Davis WILSON (of "Mt. Wilson" fame) from Tennessee who became landowner, timberman, and polititian (including governor of California).

ENOUGH!

The history (for me) is fascinating! May the UNTOLD STORIES of our collective past be better TOLD and HEARD!

(Rev.) Juan Romero